

Message Text

PAGE 01 TUNIS 05970 171008Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W
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R 170945Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3465

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

S E C R E T TUNIS 5970

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS/ AMER, TS

SUBJECT: E&E PLANNING

REF: STATE 204192

1. APPRECIATE INFO REFTTEL RE SAFEHAVEN AND FISCAL DATA.

2. THERE ARE NO RPT NO DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM TUNIS TO MADRID. POTENTIAL EVACUEES WOULD BE REQUIRED TO CHANGE FLIGHTS IN EUROPE (PROBABLY ROME OR PARIS) FOR ONWARD TRANSPORT MADRID. IF EVACUATION WERE PHASED AND ORDERLY, INDIVIDUAL TRAVELLERS COULD PROBABLY ACCOMPLISH THIS ON THEIR OWN. IF EVACUATION WERE SUDDEN AND MASSIVE, HOWEVER, WE WOULD PROBABLY NEED INTERMEDIATE ASSISTANCE IN EVENT COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS UTILIZED.

3. COMMERCIAL AIR LINKS TO EUROPE OF COURSE DO EXIST ON DAILY BASIS (TWO CARAVELLE FLIGHTS TO ROME, FOR EXAMPLE), WITH VARIET OF POSSIBLE CONNECTIONS TO MADRID. WE DO NOT BELIEVE HOWEVER THAT IT WOULD BE WISE TO COUNT ON SUFFICIENT AVAILABLE SPACE IN EMERGENCY. MOREOVER, NEED TO SECURE ONWARD TICKETS FROM EUROPEAN CITY TO MADRID WOULD DOUBLE OUR WORK IN CRISIS SITUATION. ACCORD-INGLY, WE THINK CHARTER AIRCRAFT MUCH THE BEST SOLUTION FOR THIS POST. AS REPORTED OUR 5962 (NOTAL), OUR CURRENT ESTIMATE OF SPACE REQUIRED IS APPROXIMATELY 800 SEATS.

SECRET

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WE HAVE NOT DISCUSSED QUESTION OF AIRCRAFT CLEARANCE FOR CHARTERS WITH GOT, BUT HAVE NO REASON TO SUPPOSE CLEARANCES WOULD BE REFUSED.

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